

ULTIMATE COMICS™

X-MEN

ISSUE 06



MARVEL

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**LIVING IN A WORLD
WHERE MUTANTS ARE
HATED AND FEARED MORE
THAN EVER, ONE GROUP
OF YOUNG HEROES HAS
BANDED TOGETHER TO
FIGHT BACK.**

ULTIMATE COMICS X-MEN



PREVIOUSLY:

Reverend Stryker has finally revealed his terrible plan, attacking Times Square and publically executing mutants that refuse to repent. Left with no choice, the President has accepted an offer made by Pietro Lensherr (a.k.a. Quicksilver) to use the brand-new Cerebra and Nimrod mutant-hunting robots to stop Stryker.

Kitty Pryde (a.k.a. The Shroud), Bobby Drake (a.k.a. Iceman), Johnny Storm (a.k.a. The Human Torch), Jimmy Hudson and Rogue arrived in Times Square to stop the murders, but Rogue revealed she had personally delivered her friends to Stryker for her own salvation.

In a shocking turn of events, the President's aid, Valerie Cooper, discovers that Reverend Stryker is actually a mutant himself with the power of technopathy – the ability to mentally manipulate machinery. When he is killed by Kitty, Stryker mentally takes control of the massive army of Nimrod units descending upon the streets of New York.

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THREE WEEKS AGO.





"--The world's
not going to
end just yet."

**NOW. TIMES SQUARE,
NEW YORK CITY.**

No--no...
he's dead.
You killed
him!

Don't worry too
much about him,
you're next.

You weren't
supposed to do
this, Kitty.

Me? I'm
not the one
who betrayed
us--

I didn't betray anyone! I just
needed to get him to touch
me--I needed to take his
powers, so he
couldn't...

Couldn't
what?

What?

Phase.



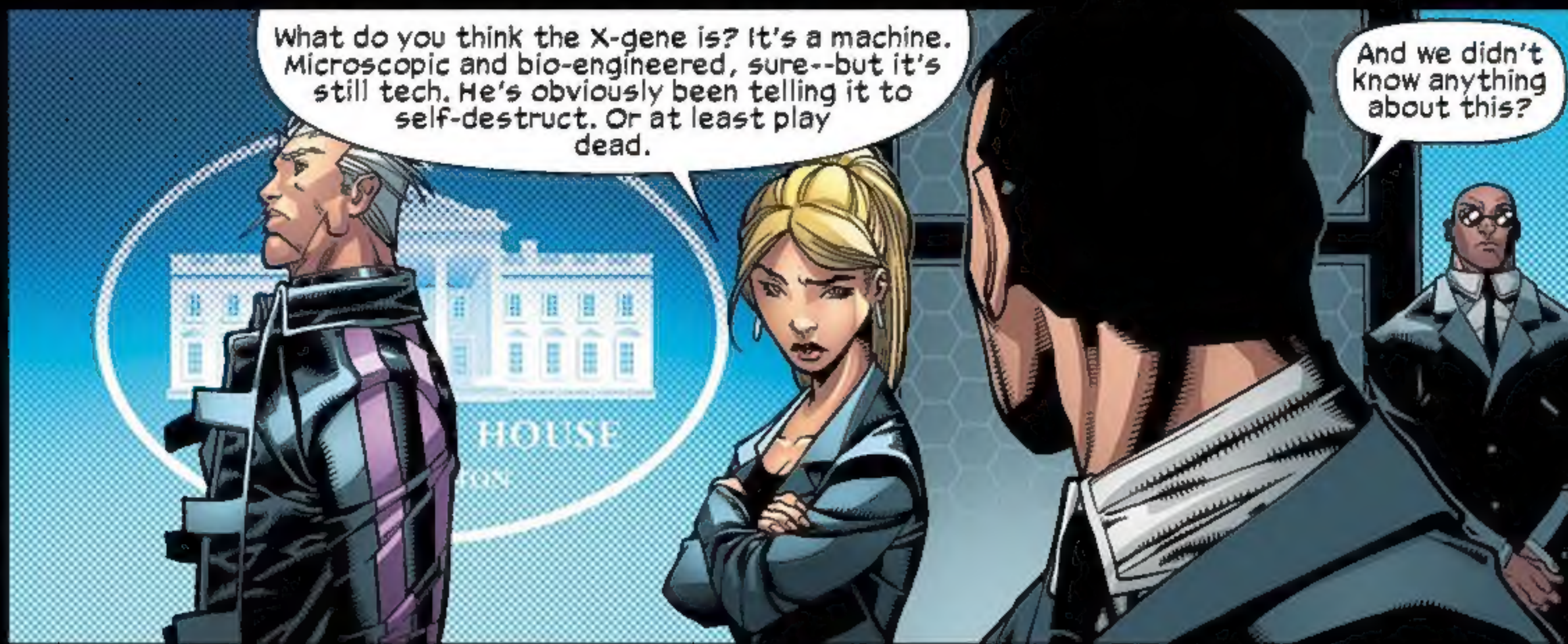
THE WHITE HOUSE
SITUATION ROOM.
WASHINGTON, D.C.



I don't understand this, Val.

What's hard to understand, Mr. President? Stryker is a mutant. He can talk to technology, tell it what to do.

But how was he healing mutants like that?



What do you think the X-gene is? It's a machine. Microscopic and bio-engineered, sure--but it's still tech. He's obviously been telling it to self-destruct. Or at least play dead.

And we didn't know anything about this?



"It was buried in his medical records. When his father--not a big fan of mutants, as you no doubt recall--found out, he had Junior placed on experimental drugs, to keep his abilities dormant.

"The kid stays on the pills throughout his life, I guess eventually convinced he did in fact have some kind of condition.

"But years later, after Magneto's attack kills his wife and kids, we can now safely assume he goes off his meds--"



Leading to just the sort of destructive behavior that makes him such a hit with the news cycle right now.

And our Nimrods?



Well, as best as we can tell, Stryker-- who just bit it thanks to some mutant girl who decides to *hit back*--with his dying breath, has taken over the Nimrods you sent to dispatch him.

Presumably just after you uploaded all this "Cerebra" data to them.



It's only a handful of Sentinels, though, surely The Ultimates can--



No, it isn't. These things work on a shared network. A network we no longer have control over. The entire Nimrod fleet is off the reservation now.



My God... What have we done?

You just gave a terrorist-controlled army of killer Sentinels the coordinates for every mutant in the United States of America.



What do we-- what do we do now, then?

We watch while thousands of innocent mutants die tonight, then we start working on resignation letter drafts.

No--no. We can stop this. Pietro, what do you recommend we--



Pietro?







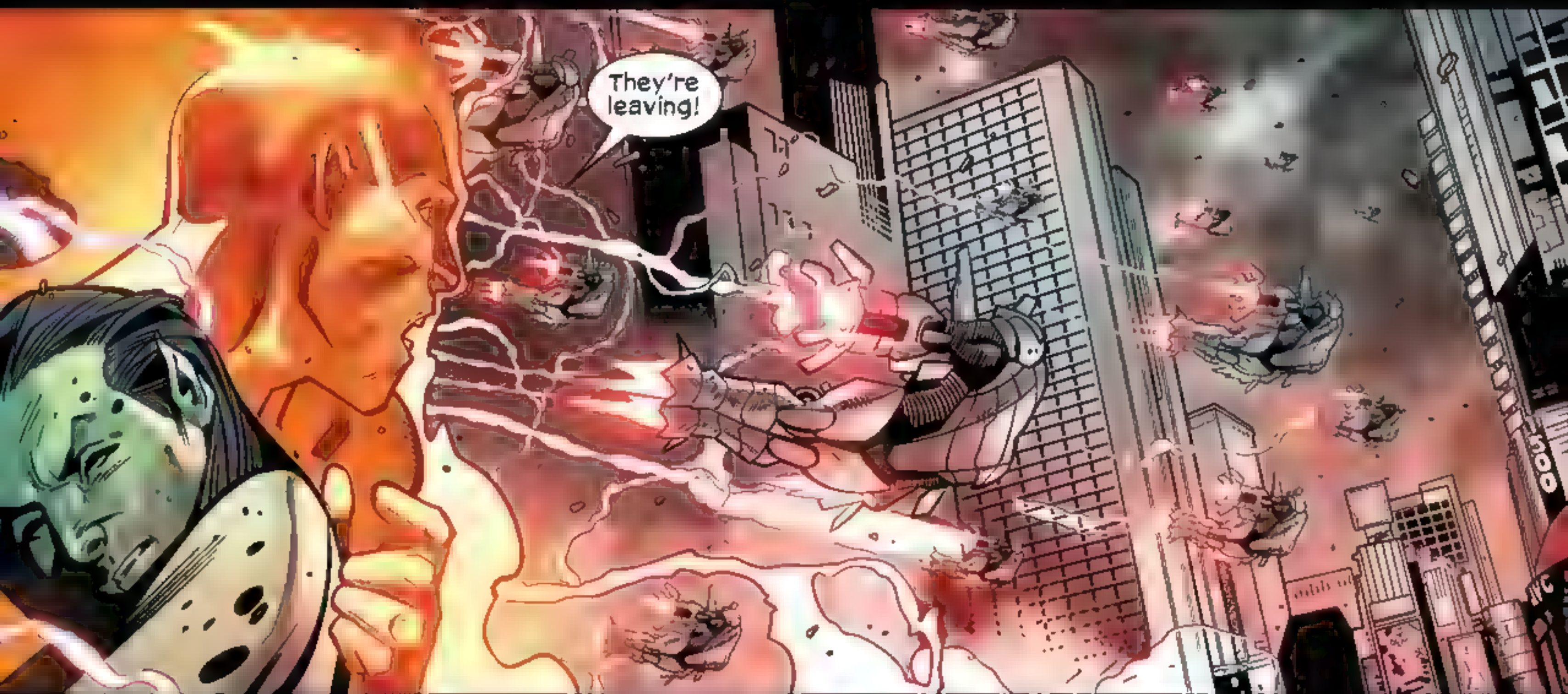
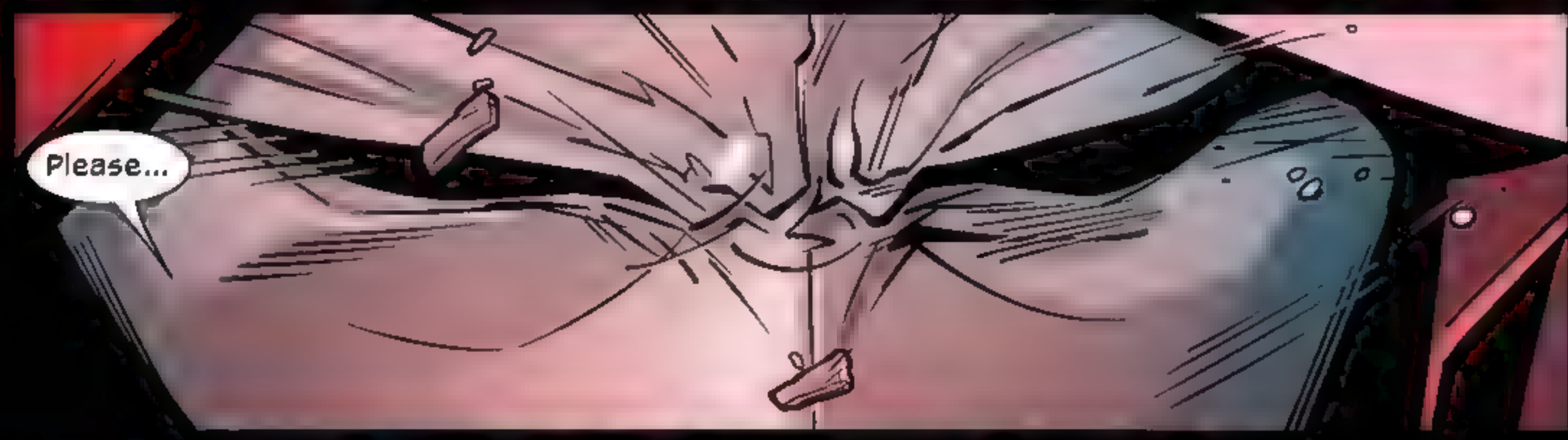
Okay,
everyone grab
onto me. They
can't kill what
they can't
touch--

Pile in!
Anyone who
can't take
their blast,
get a hand
on me!

Get in
closer! We
can still fit
more--

Come
on!





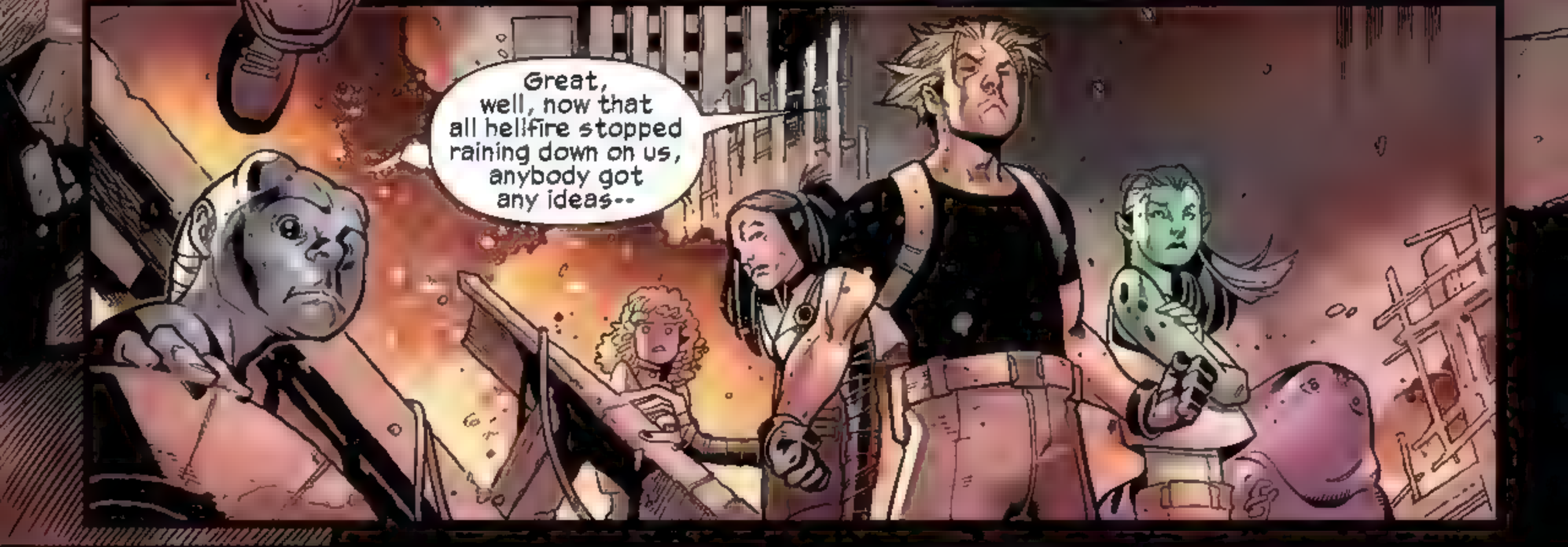


They're giving up. Why are they giving up?

Guess they can tell when they're gonna lose.

No, Jimmy--

--They just have a lot of other targets out there.



Great, well, now that all hellfire stopped raining down on us, anybody got any ideas--

--As to what we do now?



You should probably start explaining why you're still here, Rogue--

I already told you, I had a plan! Everything I did, I was trying to take Stryker out. I needed to get Stryker's powers to do it. Then you came in and made a damn mess out of it--

You're lying. I knew we shouldn't trust you--



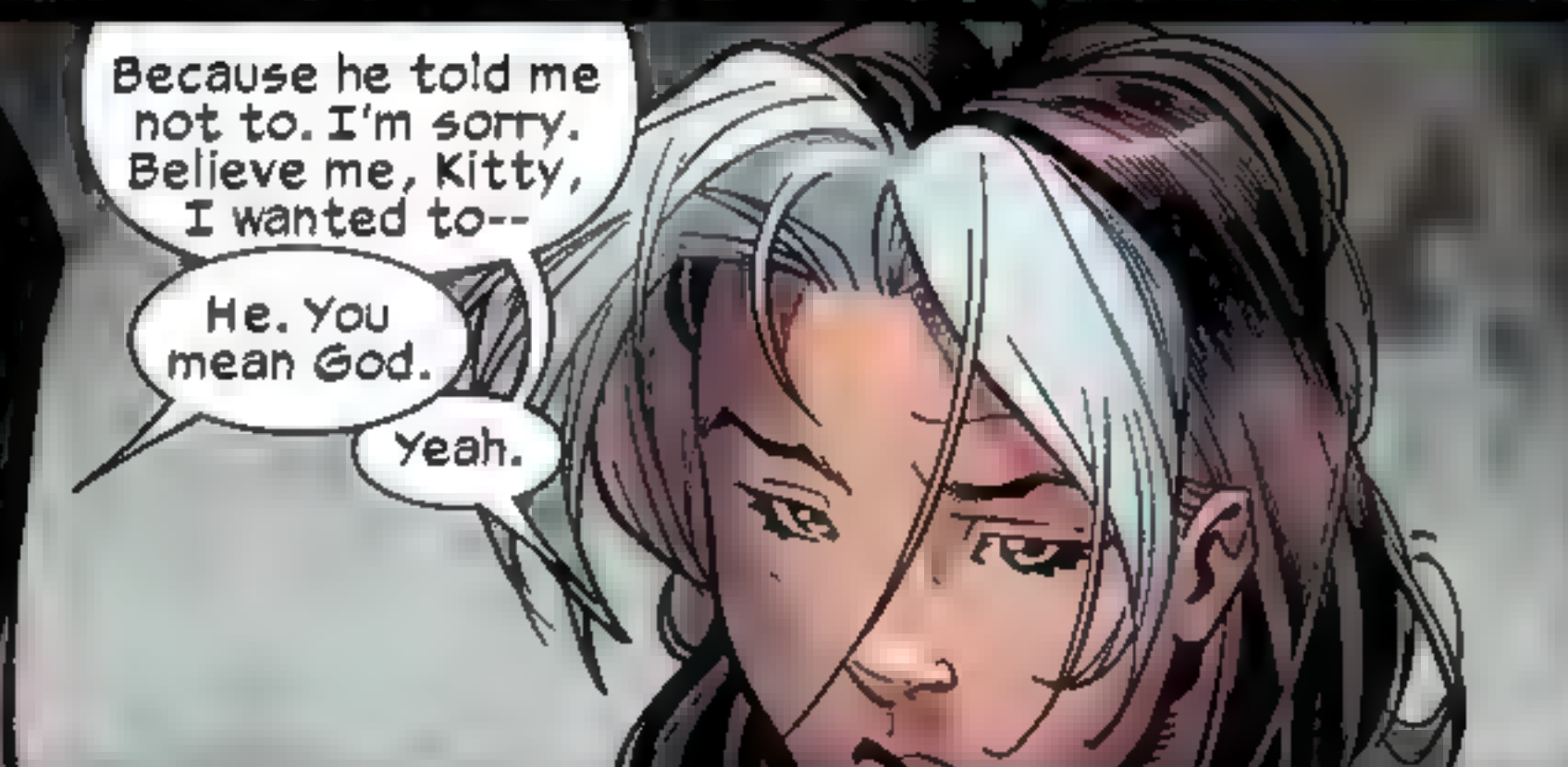
Who do we believe here? Rogue did hit me back at Times Square.

We get beat up by girls a lot more often than I'd like.

Yeah, but Kitty hit me before we even left.



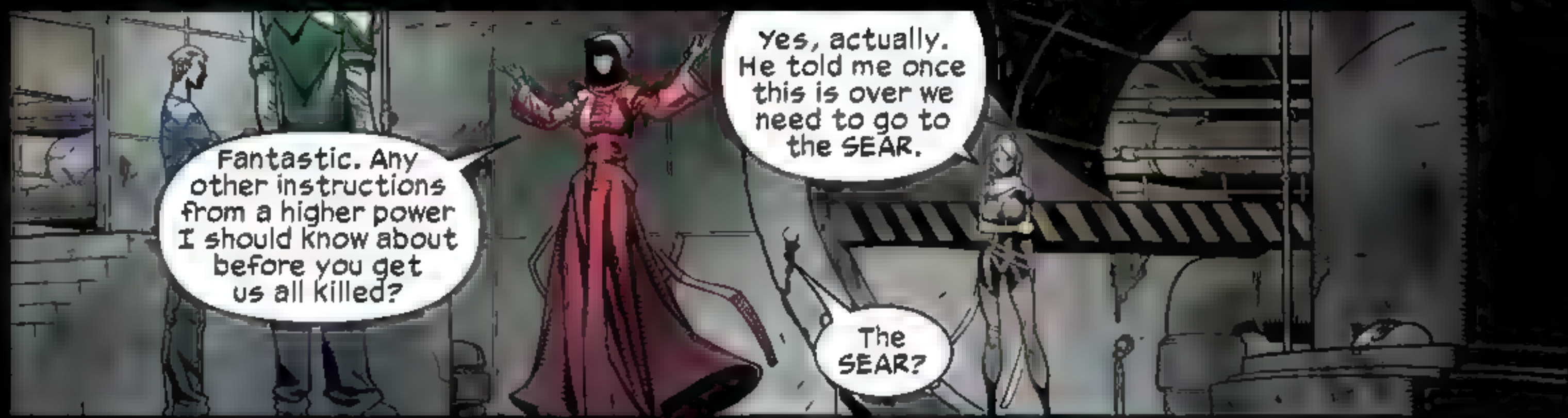
And why couldn't you have just told us what you were trying to do?



Because he told me not to. I'm sorry. Believe me, Kitty, I wanted to--

He. You mean God.

Yeah.



Fantastic. Any other instructions from a higher power I should know about before you get us all killed?

Yes, actually. He told me once this is over we need to go to the SEAR.

The SEAR?



Yeah.

The Southeast Asian Republic, SEAR?

Yeah.



Why the ~~hell~~! would we go to the SEAR?

This is the voice of the revolution--

I am the Oracle of Change.

Now there is a nation where you can become something more than what you are. For all who seek it, the Source will transform the flawed into the perfect.

We will accept anyone who chooses to come to our shores with a desire to change in their hearts. We make no restrictions.

WHOA!!!

The establishment of Tian is complete. Heaven now exists on Earth.

It will transform the old into the new. The human into Celestial. The Deviant into the Eternal.

If you are persecuted, come to Tian. If you are hopeless, here is your new home. We are waiting for you...

I am the Oracle of Change. And this is a new day.



Persecuted?

Check.

Hopeless?

Check.

I think they meant us.



What was that?

Dunno...news is already saying everyone got it. Everyone everywhere.

And Tian... where the hell is Tian?

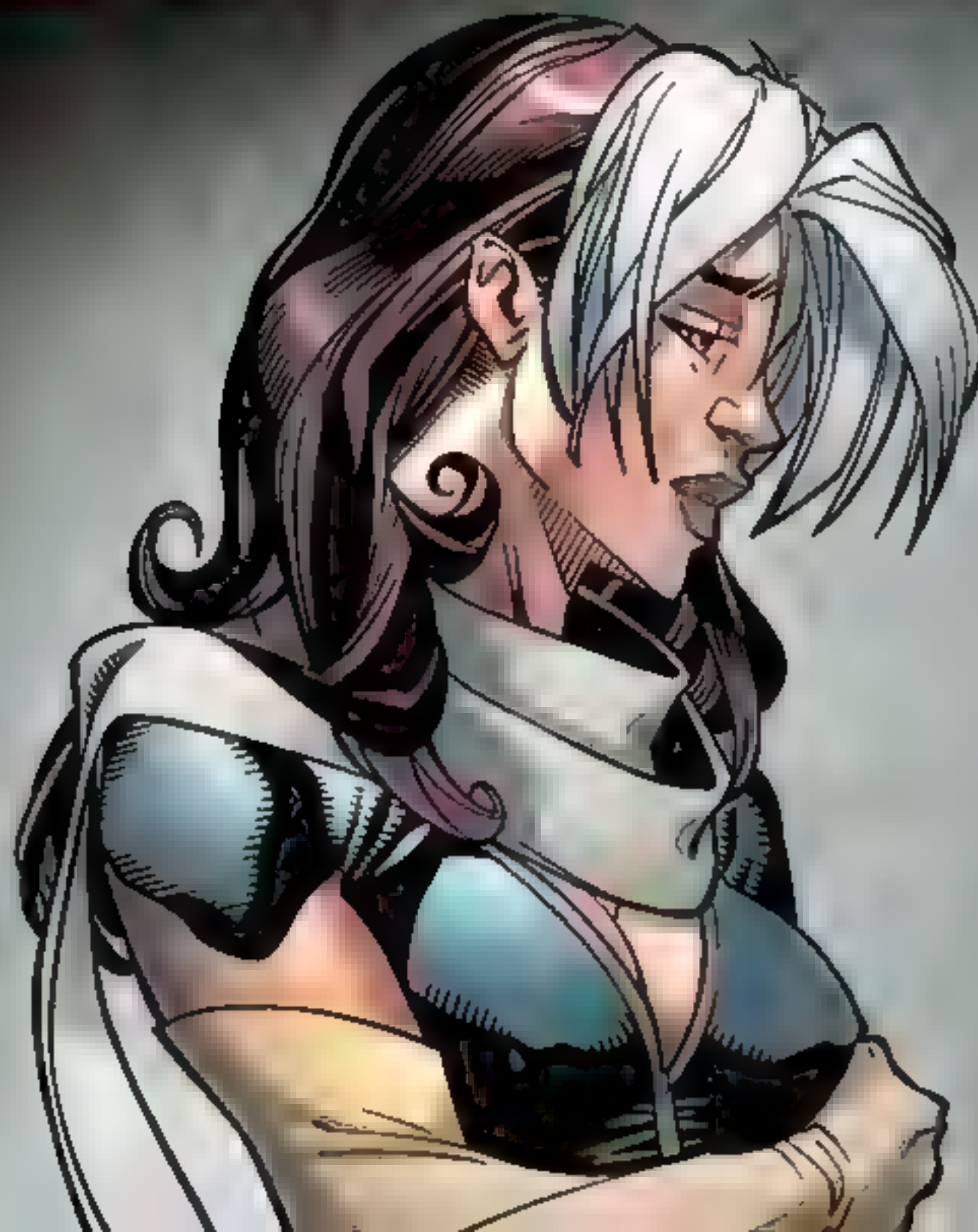


Like you even need to ask.



Okay, that's it--where are you getting this from? Who told you to come here? Who told you to do all this?

I...



And if you say God one more time, so help me--

THREE WEEKS AGO.

You understand what you're to do, then?

Well, yeah-- but I don't see how this is gonna work...

Go to Stryker. Tell him you want to be "healed"--

Why would he wanna help me? He hates me.


He is an arrogant--and delusional--fool. He will offer you a deal--to grant your request in exchange for the lives of your friends.

Yes. Then, when you bring them to him, he will touch you. And in that moment, you can seize his power and use it against him. Therein lies the key to salvation. For all of us.

And why can't I just tell Bobby and Kitty what I'm up to, exactly?

Because the time is not right--

Bobby and Kitty.



At least
not for *all* my
students.

TO BE CONTINUED...

NEXT: SPELLBOUND!



ON SALE NOW!



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